

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows.

Page 6, first and second paragraphs:

c1 The present invention provides a device and method for latching a door 2 closed against a frame 4. Referring generally to FIGS. 1-6, in a preferred embodiment, the latch device 10 includes a movable latch bar 12. The latch bar 12 has a first slot 14 with a cam surface 16 that contacts a door pin 18, or other suitable engaging element, that projects from the edge of the door 2 opposite the door hinge 20. The door 2 has a hinge 20 on one side, and the door pin 16 extends outwardly from the side of the door 2 on the opposite side from the hinge 20. One or more door ~~pints~~ pins 18 and corresponding first slots 14 may be employed, depending on, for example, the door size and the load on the door.

The latch bar 12 is preferably mounted on the frame of the door 2 generally adjacent the edge of the door that has the door pin 18, and the latch bar 12 may reciprocate in a vertical direction between locked and unlocked positions. Referring to FIG. 4, the latch bar 12 has a first slot 14 with a cam surface 16, so that when the latch bar 12 is in an unlocked position, the door pin 18 is unobstructed and the door 2 is therefore free to swing between open and closed positions with the door pin 18 free to enter and exit the first slot 14. Referring to FIG. 5, when the door 2 is closed, or nearly closed, the door pin 18 enters the first slot 14, and movement of the latch bar 12 in a latching direction A will cause the cam surface 16 to contact the door pin 18 and urge the door pin 18 in the direction B towards a more fully closed position. In some embodiments, the door 2 may have a gasket 22 between the door 2 and frame 4. The latch bar

c1 movement in direction A causes a door closing force in direction B that compresses the gasket 24
22.

Page 8 and 9, last paragraph on page 8/first paragraph page 9 and second paragraph page
9.

In a preferred embodiment, the latch bar 12 may be biased by gravity or by a spring or other suitable biasing device into the unlocked position, so that when the door is open, the latch bar remains in the unlocked position, available to receive the ~~latch pin 16~~ door pin 18 and the door handle pin 36 30 as the door swings closed. The handle lever 32 26 can be similarly biased into a position corresponding to the unlocked position. The handle pin 36 30 will align with and engage the second slot 30 24, as the door 2 swings closed.

c2 In the preferred embodiment, the latch bar 12 is shown mounted to the door frame 4 on the side opposite of the hinge 20. Two door pins 18 are used along with two first slots 14. Depending upon variables such as the size of the door, the load on the door, and the degree of gasket compression desired, the number of door pins 36 18 and corresponding cam slot openings 34 14 may be varied to provide the desired latching force. Also, the latch bar 12 is illustrated having reciprocal motion relative to the door frame 4 via guide slots 34 in the latch bar 12 and guide pins 36 attached to the door frame 4. Other suitable methods of supporting the latch bar 12 for reciprocal movement may be used.
